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SAPC 6804
Copy 2 of 4

7 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Recruiting Trip

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1. On 31 May [REDACTED], Office of Security, and the undersigned arrived at Great Falls, Montana for the purpose of recruiting Air Force pilots for use as contract pilots with this Project. Colonel Robert Shick, Bergstrom AF Base, was the SAC representative who met us at Great Falls and was present during the entire recruitment trip.

2. Colonel Shick had arrived at Malmstrom AF Base, Great Falls, Montana on the morning of 31 May; and prior to our arrival, he had contacted the Wing Commander, Colonel Murry A. Bywater and Lt. Colonel Robert Keen, Deputy Wing Operations Officer. Colonel Shick had explained that SAC Headquarters had authorized our contacting some of the pilots possessing certain qualifications with the purpose of interviewing them as prospective members of a special project. Other than this general statement, Colonels Bywater and Keen were not briefed on our mission. During June 1, 2, and 3 ten pilots were interviewed and of these ten, nine indicated sufficient interest to request a second interview. These nine pilots were interviewed the second time and all of them either at the conclusion of the second or prior to our departure from Great Falls indicated that they were interested in proceeding to the next step of the hiring processing.

3. From Great Falls the interviewing team proceeded to Larson AF Base, Moses Lake, Washington. Again, as in the case of Malmstrom AF Base, Colonel Shick preceded [REDACTED] and the undersigned to the Air Base and gave the same limited amount of information to Colonel McKenna, Wing Commander, and Colonel Sams, whose position title was not learned by the undersigned. Seven pilots were given the first interview with six indicating a desire to receive the second interview. Prior to the departure of [REDACTED] and the undersigned from Moses Lake, we had been informed by five of these six pilots that they were definitely interested in continuing on, and Colonel Shick was to have contacted the sixth one prior to his departure from the Base. Final word on this sixth pilot will be obtained from Colonel Shick either today or tomorrow.

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4. One of the pilots interviewed at Great Falls was a Negro chap who indicated interest in our Project after the second interview. In view of possible cover complications and other considerations in this particular case, the undersigned is desirous of a decision as to whether or not processing on this one individual should proceed further. The individual himself could be told that we had extended our recruitment effort beyond what our actual needs are, and, therefore, we were forced to withdraw our consideration of some of the less qualified individuals. However, Colonel Bywater and Colonel Keen are aware of those pilots in whom we displayed interest and would undoubtedly realize that this particular pilot was the only one in whom we had discontinued interest.

5. As of this date it is anticipated that the first group of four or five of these pilots will be sent to [REDACTED] during the week of 18-22 June. The remainder will follow in groups of four or five in successive weeks. Complete processing with the exception of final suit fittings and altitude chamber tests should be finished on the group by 13 July.

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[REDACTED]
Case Officer

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